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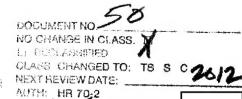OXC 4196
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29 NOV 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, OSA
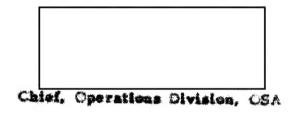
SUBJECT: OXCART Drivers

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REFERENCE:

1.   This memorandum contains a recommendation for the approval of the Assistant Director, OSA. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 5.

2.   The scheduling and handling of drivers for the OXCART program has been juggled and adjusted several times in the past for reasons which appear valid at that moment but which generally refer to slippages in the program as primary cause factors. In my opinion the project must go forward in accordance with the existing schedule and bring the drivers on board to assure that they are available and fully documented prior to such time as the aircraft may be available for training.

3.   The additional reason currently being employed that the F-101's are required for chase aircraft in the test training program for the A-12 appears to imply that the pilots would predominately be staff assigned Air Force people. The total flying hours involved might well support assigned drivers keeping them highly proficient in the F-101 aircraft as well as generally acquainting them with operational characteristics of the A-12. The original concept for chase as stated by Mr. Johnson, was that the F-104 was most adequate and he was vehement in his objection to the F-101 aircraft.

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4. As a result of increased activity it has become apparent that the F-104 cannot handle chase requirements and the F-101 has become the primary vehicle in support of the test program. If this requirement continues it would appear that additional chase aircraft should be obtained to support the test program rather than slip the entire operations planning.

5. Recommend that we adhere to the present schedule for OXCART drivers.

Chief, Operations Division, OSA

The recommendation contained
in paragraph 5. is approved:

for JACK C. LEDFORD
Colonel   USAF
Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

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